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A LETTER

To the Right Hononrable, My *Lord Chief Justice Holt*, occasioned by the *Noise* of a *PLOT*.

My LORD,

THE Character which you bear, and the Office which you have several Years discharged with so much Credit to the Government, Reputation to your Self, and Justice to the Nation, have rendred You both the Object of all honest Men's Esteem; and the Sanctuary to which they fly and retreat, when either through the Pique and Revenge, or the Jealousy and Credulity of Ministers of State, and their Subordinate Officers, they find themselves Assaulted in their Lives, pursued as to their Estates, or deprived of their Liberties, upon the Depositions of a few Necessitous, Brib'd, and Suborned Fellows. And seeing it is not possible, that any can be illegally Prosecuted, unduly Convicted, or unjustly Condemned, without your coming to suffer both in your Honor, which you so sensibly value; and to forfeit that Integrity, which is accounted unnatural unto You; Pray suffer one who is your most Real, tho' unknown Servant, to lay such Things with all Humility and Deference before you, as may serve to prevent your being Surpriz'd and Circumvented, to do any thing unworthy of your Self, or injurious and destructive to Innocent Men.

With what Blushing and Grief, do those imbu'd with any degrees of Wisdom and Vertue, reflect on the Ignominy and Guilt brought upon the Nation by *Oates*, and his *Complices*; Who as they were the first Pack of Witnesses the Kingdom was ever acquainted with, that were Established under the Encouragement of Salaries and Rewards, to be Standing Evidence in Capital and Criminal Cases;

to

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ſo the diſmal Effects of that Method of Adminiſtring Government, and Executing Laws, were ſoon felt, not only by the Advantage which other Miſcreants endeavour'd to make of that Miſchievous Precedent, in ſetting up to Imitate them, upon proſpect and hope of the like Profit and Reward; but through their own growing emboldned to invade the Reputations, and attacque the Lifes of High and Low, in order to merit the Encreaſe, as well as the continuance of the Price of Blood, upon which they projected to ſubſiſt. And which one of them hath the Fortune ſtill to Enjoy, but whether it proceed from the Generoſity of the Government, or be owing to the Wiſdom of it, as reckoning it to be Serviceable to its Intereſt; I ſhall not preſume to determine. Nor will I deny, but that thoſe State-Witneſſes of the firſt Muſter and Enrollment, may be allowed to have Sworn truly in ſome Particulars; but it muſt withal be acknowledged, that they Perjur'd themſelves in many others. So that, my Lord Chief Juſtice *Scroggs*, who had raiſed them to the Reputation of being held Credible Perſons, by giving Faith Himſelf to their Teſtimony in ſome Trials, and thereby gaining and reconciling others to do the like, was upon obſerving the impoſſible as well as improbable things, they grew up into a Confidence of Depoſing, and how they could not only Perjure themſelves without Shame or Remorſe, but with an air of Aſſurance and Sincerity, was forced to detract from, and leſſen their Credibility in future Trials, as much as he had raiſed it in former. Tho' he could not be unſenſible, that the beſt Returns he would meet with from many for this after-game of Candor, Probity and Juſtice, was to have his Diſcretion and Righteouſneſs reflected upon, for the Sentences he had pronounced before, upon no other or better Teſtimony, than that of thoſe whom he found it needful at laſt to render infamous.

Nor can it eſcape your Lordſhip's remembrance, what convulſions the Kingdom was thrown into, by a Sett of Mercenary Raſcals. *Anno* 1681. who wanted nothing but the obtaining Belief to their Teſtimony againſt the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, to the involving vaſt Numbers of Proteſtants of all Qualities and Degrees, under the Guilt of a horrid Conſpiracy againſt his then Majeſty's Perſon and Government. For the Villains having been Trained up to Swear Men out of their Lifes, without the leaſt regard to their being guilty or guiltleſs; all that they minded, was whom the influencing Miniſters were ready to Start; being ready to halloo, and purſue

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them to Scaffolds and Gibbets, if they might be but plentifully paid and rewarded for it. And having Breakfasted on those of one Party, they were prepared to Sup on them of another. For being habituated to Blood, it was indifferent to them, whom they murderously destroyed, and all that obtained a room in their Thoughts, was the being assured before hand, in whose Slaughter they should make the better Meal. Yea it was but for any to out-bid those that train'd them up, and the *Canibals* were ready to fly upon them that bred them to devour, upon the first prospect they had of doing it with Impunity, and of finding their interest in't. Which upon observing what had befallen others, I wish some at this time may take warning by it. Only permit me to tell you, that the interposition and influence which some of K. *Charles*'s Ministers had both in Forging and forming that pretended *Plot* in (81) and in Suborning Miscreants to support the Belief of it by Falshood and Perjury, was that which gave provocation and encouragement to the design'd Insurrection in 1682. For when Men can't find Safety in their Innocency, they will seek to obtain it by their Swords. And if the Laws be not sufficient to cover and protect them, they will be tempted to try what *Back* and *Breast* can do. Nor is it unworthy of your *Lordship*'s reflection, that tho several Persons of Quality and Vertue had the Misfortune to Suffer for what they had then contrived, and were ready to Execute; yet the Justice of their Endeavours hath been abundantly vindicated, by the Repeal of their Attainders since this *Revolution*. And the Combination in which they were embarqued upon the Motive and Necessity, of being (through the Subornation of Witnesses against them) deprived of all other Means of Safety, hath had the Commendation of this Government, in the many Honors and Rewards, bestowed not only upon the Friends and Relations, but on the Surviving *Complices* of those that perish'd. Nor is your *Lordship*'s memory so weak and unfaithful, but that it will furnish you with *Memoirs* of the Barbarous Infamy, which a certain Zealous and Credulous Gentleman, endeavoured upon weak and trivial Suggestions, to have fastned upon the late K. *Charles*, the D. of *York*, and divers other Persons of the first *Figure* and *Quality*, by Charging and Accusing them of being Conscious and Accessary to the Murder of the Earl of *Essex*. And 'tis not without Shame and Detestation that Men of Discretion and Probity, reflect upon, and call over, the groundless and malicious Rumors, upon which the whole Court, especially his then *Royal Highness* were impudently slander'd, the Nation

tion ſtrangely Allarm'd, and the Peace of the City and Kingdom Attempted to have been ſhaken, and diſturbed. Nor will it be eaſy for a certain Sort of People to wipe off the Blots and Aſperſions, they deſervedly brought upon themſelves, of wanting either Senſe or Integrity, by their giving Belief to thoſe weak and ill-invented Suggeſtions, which nothing but Folly mixed with Rancour, could feign; nor any receive and give credit to, but thoſe of a ſtrange Bigottry, and of Parallel Diſaffection and Diſloyalty. For beſides the wounding Princes, and ſeveral Noble Peers in their Honor by them, which the Laws are framed to protect with an equal tenderneſs, as they do the Crown, the Conſtitution, and the Lifes of the moſt valuable, innocent and deſerving Subjects; Who can conceive or apprehend without Horror, the many other miſchievous Effects, which thoſe malicious Accuſations were adapted to have produced, had not they who adminiſtred Juſtice in that Court where your *Lord ſhip*, to the contentment and joy of the whole Nation, now doth, unravell'd that whole Myſtery of audacious Villany, and with a Wiſdom, Zeal, and Fortitude becoming their Places, both detected the Conſpiracy againſt the Honor of thoſe that had been traduced, and puniſhed it in the credulous but feeble Supporter of it? Nor doth the righteouſneſs of their Procedure in that Matter, need any other Juſtification, nor the Innocency of that *Prince*, who was defamed with ſo much Inſolency and Falſhood, require a more convincing and ſatisfactory Vindication, than to obſerve with what Scorn, Contempt, and Ridicule the *Houſe of Lords* treated and diſmiſſed that Affair, when with a revived Malice it was ſtaged before them, and inforced with an art properer to miſlead than to inform, ſince this *Revolution*. For it cannot be imagin'd but that it would have been very grateful to thoſe who had diveſted King *James* of his Royal Power and Dignity, to have found him ſullied with a Crime, that would have contributed more towards the ſupporting the equity of their proceeding againſt him, than all he hath been loaded with beſides, as the motives to his *Abdication*. And forgive me, my Lord, if I preſume to add, that as King *James*'s Inocency in reference to the Death of that unfortunate *Peer*, cannot receive a more Illuſtrious, as well as Publick a Vindication, than by the *Houſe of Lords* diſmiſſing that Criminal Accuſation, with a Deriſion of the preſumptuous and groundleſs Vanity of it, after they had for many days Inquired into it, with all the penetration they could, and that by a Committee of their Members, the moſt and longeſt

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alienated in their affections from him, of any in that *Houſe*; ſo it cannot eſcape the obſervation of Thinking, and indifferent Perſons, how that barbarous Aſperſion, which the Malice and Induſtry of ſome Perſons had faſtned and continu'd upon him, influenced as much to this *Revolution*, and all the calamities which have attended him upon it, thro' having ſunk him, the [illegible] eſteem and confidence of his People, as any one thing whatſoever wherof he hath been accuſed. Nor was it difficult to deprive him of his *Crown*, and drive him from his *Throne*, upon very little and weak Pretences, when by an Acuſation ſo calumnious, as this appears now to have been they had caſt, and kept him, out of the Hearts and Veneration of his People ſo long before. And for Mr. *Braddon* to perſevere after this, to ſtain King *James* with the Murder of the Earl of *Eſſex*, or with any thing relative to his Death; doth ſerve only to diſcover his Vanity, accompanied with an implacable Malice. And gives occaſion to the moſt modeſt and reſerved Cenſurers of Perſons and Things, to judge that his cheriſhing himſelf, and ſtudying to obtrude the Belief of it upon others, at firſt; was not ſo much from a weakneſs in his Underſtanding, which is no diſparagement to him to think him capable of; as from a Crime in his Will, which rendreth him a very bad and wicked Man; whereas the former would have only publiſh'd him credulous and ſilly. And it argueth a great deal of Impudence and Pride as well as of inveteterate Rancour and Spleen, for him to fancy, that more credit ought to be given unto him, upon his daring and bare Aſperſions, than either to the neareſt *Relations* of that unfortunate Lord, or to the *Houſe of Peers*, in diſclaiming and ſtifling the ſlanderous Accuſation in the manner they did. However the miſcarriage in this one Adventure of blackning K. *James*, makes it violently ſuſpected what unſucceſsfulneſs they would have had in the Proof of other Imputations, with which he hath been no leſs rudely than audaciouſly Charged. It is true, his *Diſpenſing* with ſome *Laws* is too notorious to be denied; but at the ſame time it is very queſtionable, whether he had not a Right by his *Prerogative* to do it; and it is moſt certain, that he had the Opinion of the *Judges* that he might, who were the only known *Expoſitors* of *Laws*, and the living *Oracles* of the bounds and limits of Sovereignty in the Intervals of *Parliaments*. And if there be any ground to blame him for giving us an *Original* in this Matter of *Royal Authority* and *Power*, I am ſure it hath ſince been Copied over and over, by a bare-fac'd departure from the *Laws*, in things more of reach of *Majeſty*, than any in which he pretended to ſupercede the obligation of the Statutes of the Realm.

And whereas my Lord, among the many real, or pretended Grievances, which upon this *Revolution* we hoped to be deliver'd from, there was none ſo miſchievous in it ſelf, and from which we with more aſſurance promiſed our ſelves the being redeem'd, than that of holding our ſelves precariouſly, and being kept in daily Jeopardy of looſing them, by the Perjuries of Subborned and Hir'd-Villains, notwithſtanding our quiet and peaceable Deportment towards thoſe ſeated in the *Throne*, which we thought, that we might with the more confidence expect, having been reſcu'd from it during all the Reign of K. *James*; it having until now been a reproach and diſparagement peculiar to the Government of his Brother K. *Charles*. Being unknown in all other Reigns, but unhappily introduc'd, and too much practiſed to his Diſhonour, and his Subject's Danger and Vexation, while he ſat on the *Throne*. But it ſeems that upon this, as well as many other Accounts, his Reign which gave occaſion to all the Miſchiefs that have ſince enſued, is choſen to be the Pattern of Adminiſtration, and Management under this. For among other diſappointments we have met with under the late Change, and our being fruſtrated in things of the vaſteſt Moment which we expected to have ſeen redreſſed, it is with extream Sorrow, that we find that Crime unknown to *Turks* and *Heathens*, as well as to all *Nations* profeſſing *Chriſtianity* beſides theſe; namely, not only of countenancing mercenary and infamous Raſcals to Swear quiet and innocent Men out of their Lifes, but of Bribing, Inſtructing, and Training them thereunto, ſtill kept up, with all the ſcandalous openeſs that it heretofore was, yea better encouraged and rewarded; and thereupon more frequently and audaciouſly practiſed, than ever it had been in the Reign of K. *Charles*, of which we have with ſo much Reason complained. How ſcandalous doth it look? And what diſhonour and infamy doth it derive upon Government, to find the *Emiſſaries* of our Stateſmen and Miniſters hawking up and down for Indigent and Neceſſitous *Jacobites*, and accoſting them with a Commiſeration of their poor and ſtarving Condition, and how willing they are not only to relieve, but to render them happy and opulent, provided they will only make themſelves capable Subjects of favour and bounty, by detecting what they know againſt the Government; and diſcovering whether they be not conſcious of the Criminal Deſigns of ſuch and ſuch, and prepared to depoſe and ſwear againſt them? Which conſidering their Poverty, together with that decay of Morality as well as Religion; and that ſtrange growth not only of *Practical*, but of *Speculative*

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Atheiſm in the Nation, much occaſioned by late practices and tranſactions, is equivolent to the tempting thoſe miſerable Wretches to forſwear themſelves for Bread, and is the giving them aim in the murdering of whom they may do the moſt meritorious Act to the Government, and make the moſt advantagious Bargain to themſelves. And if this doth not prevail upon thoſe indigent Creatures, whom Poverty and Irreligion have diſpoſed for the Impreſſion of the weakeſt Temptation; The next Aſſault upon them, is under the pretence of relieving their Want, to give them a *Crown* or an *Angel*, and then to call it levying and Subſiſtance Mony; and thereupon to neceſſitate them either by Perjury to deſtroy others, or to fall and periſh themſelves, upon the accuſation of thoſe that pretended charitably to ſupply them. Nor can it ſeem ſtrange or aſtoniſhing to your *Lordſhip*, to find ſuch courſes and methods purſued towards the ruining particular Men, when you obſerve the ways that are notoriouſly taken, to make Members of Parliament, ſo treacherouſly and felonioufly deſtroy the Kingdom. For beſides the many *Members* of the *Houſe of Commons*, with which the beginning and original Grants of all Money for the Support of the Government is undiſputably lodged, who have Places and Employments equivolent to Penſions; and by which, as the ſtanding and meritorious Qualification that entitleth them unto, and giveth them an indefeſible Title in their Poſts, they are byaſſed to give whatſoever is demanded; there are many others purchaſed by Gratuities, Gifts and Salaries, to concur in, and promote all publick Aids, which they too readily do, without the leaſt reſpect to the Welfare and Safety of the Kingdom, upon the meer foot of finding their own Intereſt wrapt up ſo eminently in what they give. And it is beyond all contradiction, that whoſoever will hire and bribe Members of Parliament to ſubvert and deſtroy the *Conſtitution*, and murder the Kingdom, which the Practice I have laid before you, palpably and uncontroulably doth; ſuch Perſons will never ſcruple the Ruining individual Perſons, by the worſt and moſt infamous Arts, if it be but ſubſervient to their revengeful, haughty, and covetous Ends. And while there is ſo general failure in Vertue, as well as a departure from all Honour, ſave that of *Parchment*; it is a wonder that inſtead of a few little Miſcreants, who in the beſt and moſt innocent Ages would have been reckon'd amongſt the *Refuſe* of Mankind; they have not furniſhed themſelves with a multitude of Witneſſes adorn'd with Titles, and diſtinguiſhed from the *Vulgus*, by Names and Characters, which uſed in times

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of Morality and Religion, to be of ſome eſteem and veneration. I ſhall not deſcend to a particular mentioning of thoſe that have withſtood the Temptation, upon their being careſs'd and menac'd, in order to their being gain'd, and diſciplin'd for Evidences, as judging it will be more uſeful to reſerve the Declaration of them to a Parliament; and the rather becauſe divers of them have been queſtioned about the Guiltineſs of ſome Members of both *Houſes*, which is in effect the telling them, that they would have ſuch and ſuch deſtroyed, and that they ſhall be plentifully rewarded, if they put on an *Effrontery* with a little ſpeciouſneſs to do it. I will not my Lord, be ſo rude and uncivil, as to ruffle you on the account of thoſe that have ſuffer'd ſince this *Revolution*, for the Crimes of High Treaſon againſt the Government; ſeeing that might not only be interpreted a want of deference and reſpect to your *Lordſhip*'s Honour, and Integrity; but accounted an impeaching and arraigning the Juſtice of the Nation. Yet ſuffer me with the utmoſt Modeſty of one that highly Eſteems you, and who would both promote your Repentance towards God, for any haſty and indiſcreet Exceſſes that are paſt; and prevent your falling into any thing that may ſavour of intemperate and unrighteous Zeal for the future, to call over, and bring to your remembrance, the *Four* Antecedent *Trials* and *Condemnations* of this kind, and to tell you with the Candor and Fidelity of your faithful Servant, how little the Credit of thoſe that ſat upon them is raiſed at preſent, or their Memory likely to be embalmed hereafter, by the Wiſdom and Juſtice diſplayed in the manage and conduct of them. I acknowledge that your *Lordſhip*'s Acceſs to the obtaining the Conviction of Perſons Arraigned uſeth to be leſs, than that of ſome others joyned in *Commiſſion* with you, and your deportment during the Trials is more decent and becoming your Character, than that of divers of your *Aſſeſſors*. Yet a little Reflection on the *Trials* I am now to mention, will quicken your Remembrance, Whether there was that Scrutiny about, and Enquiry into the Credibility of the Witneſſes, which ſo important a Caſe as the Lifes of Men, and the Forfeiting their Eſtates, to the Impoveriſhing their Families and Poſterity doth require? And whether all that Help and Aſſiſtance was given to the Arraigned, which the Law doth allow, and makes incumbent upon the *Judge* to yield? For to begin with the *Firſt*, which was the Convicting and Sentencing the *Chair-Man* to Death, *For Levying War to diſturb the Tranquility of the Nation, and to De-Throne and Diſpoſſeſs King* William; which had it not been traſacted in a *Court* of *Juſtice*, would have look'd rather like a *Banter* upon the Government, than a Teſtimony of Loy-

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alty and Zeal to ſupport it. I do very well know, that all for which he was found Guilty and Condemned, was expreſly ſworn againſt him; but can it obtain credit with any who allow themſelves the liberty ſeriouſly to think, that one of his Meaneſs, had either the intereſt, power, or Treaſure, to make the leaſt Comotion in the Kingdom; or that a Perſon bred all his days to ſo inferior and ſervile an Employ as he was, had either the Courage and Boldneſs to muſter Forces, or the Saucineſs and Vanity once to imagine, that he could overturn Thrones, and wreſt Scepters out of the Hands of Princes? Had he been accuſed and convicted for deſigning to have Aſſaſſinated either of the *Two*, Veſted with the Supream Authority, there might have been ſome probability in it, as being practicabe, and of the like whereof the Records of former times have furniſhed us Inſtances and Examples. But for a poor Creature to be thought capable of enrolling Troops, and commencing War againſt a Prince encompaſſed with a large diſciplin'd Army, and that in the Honey-month of his Government, when the *Nation* generally was fond of him, may be reckon'd among the leaſt of Incredibles; and ſeems obtruded upon the Faith of the Kingdom, meerly to expoſe our Credulity. And I have often obſerv'd, that your *Suborned* Fellows, do either out of too much Haughtineſs, or too little Senſe make the ſame ſport at the Majeſty of Courts of Judicature, and of the Underſtandings of the reſt of Mankind, that they do with the Lifes of thoſe they are hir'd to murder. In a word, all that with the leaſt ſhadow of Truth can be conceiv'd of what the Man was accuſed of, is that he had been *charitable* to thoſe he apprehended in greater diſtreſs than himſelf, which adminiſtred occaſion to the ungrateful Wretches that receiv'd it, to gain a Reward from thoſe at the Helm of Affairs, through their ſtiling and ſwearing it Levy and Subſiſtence Money. And as for *Croſs* the *Kentiſh Attorney*, who was Tried and Condemned for going abroad the *French Fleet*, when they lay upon the Coaſt; it is known that he was as paſſionate and violent a *Williamite* as was in the Kingdom; and that he went thither meerly out of Curioſity, conceiving it no Crime, nor apprehinding any danger by it, and not upon a diſloyal and treacherous account. For what better Teſtimony could be given of the poor Man's Zeal and Affection for the *Government*, than praying with that Heartineſs that he did, for the Preſervation and proſperous Reign of *William* and *Mary*, at the time and place of his Execution, when and where none without being highly uncharitable, can imagine that he would diſſemble. And were the *Jacobites* capable of taking that pleaſure in the ruine of In-

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nocent Men, which your ſcandalous *Whigs*, and too many of your bi gotted *Phanaticks* ſeem to do; his Execution was a thing where n they would have thought themſelves extreamly gratified. And they will at all times reckon your Severities of that kind, if not favours they take pleaſure in, at leaſt actions which will neither provoke their reſentment nor indignation. Nor is it unworthy of your obſervation, that the unhappy Man was halloo'd and purſu'd to Death, by Perſons who valu'd themſelves heretofore for being in a Faction, of which few are Loyal to *Monarchs* out of Principle, but ſolely for Intereſt. And of whom there are too many, who out of Devotion to their *Idol* of a *Republick*, will be ready to ſacrifice, and give up to Scaffolds and Gibbets all that are addicted to *Kingſhip*, whoſoever be the King. As for Mr. *Aſhton*'s Caſe, the Severity he met with hath been already repreſented in *Print*, without any Reply hitherto given in Vindication of the Juſtice of the Nation, to what is there declared and laid open. And 'tis ſufficiently known by all of any Converſation at *Whitehall*, and about the the *Town*, that he was not ſo much Condemn'd for what was produc'd againſt him at the *Bar*, as for what was conceal'd, being held unfit to be diſcover'd. For the *Papers* concerning the *Legitimacy* of the *P.* of *Wales*, which he was carrying over to K. *James*; firſt for his peruſal, and then for his approbation, in order to have preſented them to the *Parliament*, was that which influenced more to his Deſtruction, than all beſides whereof he was accuſed, which in the Opinion of very wiſe and impartial Men, were but triſling and inſignificant things, and which as they did not deſerve ſo hard a Fate; ſo they would never have prevailed upon an unprejudic'd *Jury* to have found him guilty, without a very ſtrange and laboured Miſleading. And pardon me my Lord, if I bewail the Suppreſſion of the forementioned *Papers*, and take the liberty to tell you, that th refuſing the *Nation* the favour of ſeeing them, renders it very much ſuſpected, *That the laſt Invaſion was not in all things alledged as the motives to it, founded in that Juſtice and Honor which were made to believe.* But to wave that, I ſhall only preſume to ſubjoin, that tho the Providences and Judgments of God are inſcrutable, yet it ought not to be let paſs without obſervation, that the only *Judge* at time on the *Bench*, who treated him with uncivil as well as uncomely Malice; and who by his whole behaviour, ſeem'd to have an unquenchable *Thirſt* after his Blood, died ſoon after *wallowing* in his own. Nor is it to be imagin'd what recommended that Perſon to the *Bench*; after his having promoted and haſtned the *Execution* of ſo many in the *Weſt*.

Anno 1685. unleſs it was that having given ſo ſignal a Teſtimony of his inhumane and implacable Cruelty to thoſe of the ſame Party and Intereſt, of which he pretended to be, he was thereupon taken and held for a Perſon that would be no leſs barbarous to all ſuch of another Faction, as ſhould have the misfortune to fall within the Circle of his Power and Rage. For it is moſt certain, that tho *Jeffereys* underwent the Clamour, and bore the Blame of thoſe *Executions*; yet moſt of the Guilt lay upon *Pollexfen*, of whom I have been ſpeaking. And for *Anderton*, who is the laſt that ſince the *Revolution* hath been Executed for *High Treaſon* of this Kind, there needeth no more to ſhew both the *Perjury* of the *Witneſſes* that ſwore againſt him, and the ſeverity and haſtineſs of his Conviction, and Condemnation, than that a Perſon arraigned and condemned ſince at the ſame place, hath openly confeſſed and avow'd, that he printed and publiſh'd the *Book*, for which poor *Anderton* was Caſt and Executed. Nor is it for the Credit of thoſe that ſat as *Judges*, or were upon the *Jury*, that ſo infamous a Fellow as *Stephens* was the Principal *Witneſs* at the *Trial*, and the Perſon upon whoſe Teſtimony eſpecially, the Arraigned was caſt. For beſides his being univerſally known for a Raſcal, that will be purchaſed to perpetuate any Villany, provided he may find Impunity in doing it; his whole behaviour at that time when he gave his Evidence was ſo exceſſively *Rude* and *Rancourous* towards the *Priſoner*, as might give any indifferent Man a juſt cauſe to believe, that he was provoked by Malice, or ſway'd by Command, and encouraged by Reward, to what he did. My Lord, I do not deſign by this brief Collection of theſe Trials, to detract from your Prudence and Moderation; and much leſs to charge you with Injuſtice as to the portion and ſhare you had in them; but the Whole I propoſe, is humbly to repreſent, that there ſeems to have been a blameableneſs ſome where; and particularly that as Juries are generally too credulous in ſuch Caſes, and many times prepoſſeſſed and prejudiced upon the Motive of Party and Faction; ſo the Witneſſes are often too mercenary and revengeful to be eaſily believed. And among other Examples of the corruption of *Witneſſes*, and of the eaſineſs of *Juries* to be impoſed upon, and the vigorous exceſſes, which through their being of a different and oppoſite Party to the Priſoner before them, they are liable to be hurried into; the Conviction of Mrs. *Merrywether* is one that hath ſenſibly affected you, and hath furniſhed you with an occaſion of teſtifying your Goodneſs, Compaſſion, and Fortitude, as well as declaring your love and regard to Juſtice, in your coe-operating with o-

thers at first for her Reprieve, and recommending her since, as a Person whom it is for the Reputation and Honour of the Government to pardon. And your stiling her Conviction *Summum Jus*, as you, frequently to have done, is equivolent, your pronouncing, that there was *Summa Injuria* in it. My Lord, in what I have been calling over to you, I have written with the temper and deference, which a regard to the Honor and Justice of the Nation after Persons have been convicted and sentenced, exacteth from me; but I cannot forbear being a little more *Picquant*, in laying before you the dangers, which many of all Ranks since the *Revolution*, have notwithstanding their Peaceableness, beeen subject unto, by means of Suborned, Brib'd, and Infamous Miscreants, through whose Perjuries great Numbers were to have been destroyed, had not the Villanous Conspiracies against high and low, been seasonably detected. Nor is it needful I should be large in telling you, to how many, and of what quality, the murderous design of *Fuller* extended; and of what Esteem he was with divers of the *Ministers*, as well as with many other People, upon the hope and prospect of the Slaughters they should have enabled to make by his Discoveries. And for his encouragement to enlarge his Accusations, and maintain them with Assurance, he was the darling both of divers *Members* of *Parliament*, and of several *Officers* of *State*. Your *A.* and *C.* vouchsafed him frequently their Company to raise his Credit; and their Eloquence was employed whereso'ever they came, in proclaiming his Praise, and in extolling his Ingenuity and Presence of Mind. Yea whilst the Government was running daily into Debt to those that industriously and substantially served it, Mony was plentifully lavished out to embolden and reward him. Nor did their being conscious how prodigally he wasted on his Lusts, discourage them from esteeming him a very credible Witness. For to gain by Falshood and Perjury, and to consume in Luxury and Whoredom, are equally overlookt by some People, when they have proposed an End, and formed a Design, wherein they want to be serv'd. And tho there is too much reason to believe, that they who gave countenance to the Rogue, as well as they who managed him, knew from the beginning that whatsoever he told them was *Sham* and *Fiction*, yet they not only filled the City and Kingdom with the Noise of a mighty Discovery of a horrid Plot, but hoping to have imposed upon the *Parliament*, as had been done in a Parallel Case, they took the confidence to bring it into the *House of Commons*. Where the Rascal telling his story with the utmost degree of Boldness and Assurance,

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and giving an amazing coherence to thoſe things he had impudence to ſay, the belief of a Plot was greatly ſtrengthned and encreaſed. But the Villain having told the *Houſe* of concurring Witneſſes whom he had, but whom (after all the Sums he bubled ſome people of) he could never produce, and having ſlandred and accuſed ſeveral Perſons of condition, whom he no ways knew, or had at any time obtained an acceſs unto, his credit at firſt dwindled by degrees, and at laſt his having *forged* whatſoever he had ſaid, became notorious. Upon which the *Houſe* for the vindication of its own Honour; but to the Grief of many without doors, and of ſome within, not only voted him an *Infamous* Perſon, but ordered that he ſhould be proſecuted. Which after a long delay, the reaſons whereof they are beſt able to aſſign who were guilty of it, he was before your *Lordſhip*; and upon being convicted, was adjudged to the Puniſhment which the Law appointeth and allows, but not what the Crime deſerves, thro' a fatal defect in the Rules of our Government. For whereas by the Laws of Nature and Revelation, as well as by the eſtabliſh'd **Sanction** of all other Nations, a Villany of this high and horrid nature, is made not only puniſhable with Death, but a death accompanied with all the cruel and infamous circumſtances which the calumnious Conſpirators would have brought upon innocent Men; it is the diſgrace and reproach of this Kingdom, which with a ridiculous Vanity ſo much boaſteth of the Excellency of its Conſtitution and Laws, that it is made only obnoxious to the Chaſtiſement, which the pettieſt Tranſgreſſion ſubjecteth Offenders unto. And whereas we hoped upon the *Revolution* to have been relieved againſt this, as well as many other Grievances, yet to our diſappointment and continued Calamity, and to the Diſhonor of thoſe who are become poſſeſſed of the *Throne*, we have not (by reaſon of the Influence of the Government upon ſome bigotted and revengeful) and other Penſionary *Members* of *Parliament*) been ſo much as able to procure the paſſing of a *Bill* for giving us the common Favours, Help, and Aſſiſtances in *Trials* of *High Treaſon*, which we are allowed in Pecuniary Matters, and in all other Caſes. And who with induſtry, vigour, and ſpleen, oppoſed a nd hindred our obtaining of it, but your *Rich's*, *Young's*, *Clark's*, *Arnold's*, &c. that both ſo much needed, bewailed the want of it heretofore, which in the righteouſneſs of God, they or their Poſterity may do again, and by a juſt retaliation be refuſed. Now this that I have laid before your *Lordſhip*, of the audacious Conſpiracies of *Fuller* for the deſtruction of innocent Perſons; fully ſheweth what neceſſitous Miſcreants or

capable of *attempting*, and what countenance the worſt barbarities may meet with from ſome, who by their *Places*, as well as by their *Characters*, and Quality, ſhould not only diſcourage, but endeavour by all means to have them puniſhed. And it doth withal ſerve to inſtruct you, not to be too credulous, nor to believe e'ry one guilty, whom indigent and immoral Fellows have the impudence to ſwear againſt. And that you may be further informed, as well as forewarned how little Men's Innocency ſignifieth to the skreening and covering them from danger, I crave liberty to remind you, what *Young* the Parſon in conjunction with *Blacket* had contrived, in order to the Murdering ſeveral of the firſt Quality in the Kingdom, beſides divers Gentlemen of lower Degree, For theſe Fellows judging it too little and mean for Perſons of their tranſcendency in Villany, meerly to ſwear that ſuch and ſuch had conſpir'd and combin'd to Reſtore and Re-Eſtabliſh K. *James*; they had the audacious and unpreſidented Impudence, to *forge* an *Aſſociation*, and to *counterfeit* and *affix* the Hands and Names of Honourable *Peers*, and Worthy Perſons unto it, importing their having mutually and jointly undertook to diſpoſſeſs K. *William*, and to bring back and re-advance K. *James*. And tho it was morally impoſſible as well as altogether incredible, that had there been ſuch a Deſign, and ſo concerted and ſtipulated, Wretches of the meaneſt of *Young* and *Blacket* ſhould have been admitted upon a *Secret* of ſuch Importance in it ſelf, and whereof the Diſcovery would have rendred thoſe concern'd liable to the loſs of Life, Honour and Eſtates. Yet not only with what eaſineſs, but leachery, was the belief of it entertain'd by divers of our Supream, and reputed wiſe *Miniſters*. And notwithſtanding its being in the whole matter of it, more *Ludicroous* than *Farce*, or *Burtholomew-Fair-Show*, and fitter to amuſe Gaping *Mob*, than to be *ſtaged* before, and to be entertained by *Stateſmen*; yet with what ſerioufneſs and gravity was it brought to the *Council-Board*, and received there as a Subject worthy of weighty and ſolemn Debate. Whill in the mean while, the very bare ſuſpecting that the Perſons, whoſe hands were *forged* to that invented and *Suppoſititious Paper*, were capable of being guilty of ſo weak and ſilly a thing could not miſs deriving upon the Government, the ſtain and reproach of Simplicity and Folly, as well as of Ingratitude and Injuſtice. For as the two *Reverend* and *Learned Biſhops*, were ſecured by their Vertue, Modeſty and Prudence, from all juſt Suſpicion of having been in the leaſt acceſſary to that whereof they accuſed; So my Lord *Malborough*'s having contributed ſo eminently and effectually to the *Revolution*, was

enough to render his *Loyalty* to this *Government* unqueſtionable becauſe neceſſary; and his return to K. *James*'s Intereſt incredible, by reaſon his receiption into the Grace and Favour of that *Prince* is impracticable. Nor could the *Miniſters* be ſo great ſtrangers to the infamous *Characters* of the Witneſſes (whoſe many and notorious Crimes had ſufficiently publiſhed them before through the whole Nation as Raſcals, who had forfeited all right to be believed and creditted) as to hope to have their Integrity and Righteouſneſs juſtified in Seizing and proſecuting any upon their Teſtimony. And yet had it not been for the miſſing of the **Forged** Paper, when it was at firſt ſo narrowly ſearcht for at the *Biſhop* of *Rocheſter*'s, where one of the Rogues had traiterouſly and felonioufly lodged it; It is ſcarce to be conceived, how ſome of our *Stateſmen* were prepared to have puſhed that Affair to the impriſonment of ſeveral. But that miſadventure, together with the defences which the foreſaid Eloquent *Biſhop*, after his apprehenſion made at his being examined before the *Council*, rendred them more ſlow and wary in their Proceeding. And thereupon thro' the gaining the reſpit of a little time, there was an opportunity obtained, not only of diſcovering and laying open the many infamous and horrid Crimes whereof the Rogues had at other times been guilty; but of fully detecting the *Forgery* of the Aſſociation, and where they had ſecretly laid it in the *Biſhop*'s Houſe, in order to have deſtroyed him and others, in caſe it had been found by the *Clerk* of the *Council*, and the *Meſſengers* when it was ſo induſtriouſly ſought for. And truly my Lord, had not *Young* laboured under a ſtrange defect of *Morals*, he was incomparably qualified in all other reſpects, to have been a Select ſingular, and Standing *Witneſs* for the *State*. For as he hath a ſufficiency of Wit and Preſence of mind to be able to give things the beſt *Gloſs* and readieſt *Turn* of Thought; ſo he is furniſhed with a larger *Stock* of Impudence and Aſſurance than moſt Men in the World are. Of which your *Lordſhip* was an aſtoniſhed Witneſs, when you had him before you at the *Bar*, to be tried for the *Forgery* which I have mentioned, to be condemned to the too gentle and feeble Puuiſhment, which the Law hath ordained for it. For with what Confidence did he ſtand, not only under the load of a thouſand infamous Actions, of which all the Court, by their peruſal of the Bp. of *Rocheſter*'s two Books, knew him to have been guilty, but under the fulleſt and cleareſt proof of the malicious *Forgery*, for which he was then Arraigned. Yea with what *Effrontry* and air of Impudence, to the amazement of all there, did he continue to aſſert his own Innocence,

nocence, and perſevere in his crimination of others? But that which filleth Men moſt with Sorrow in reference to that tranſaction, and which keeps them under diſquieting Fears ever ſince, is that though *Young* and *Blacket* were *inſtruments* in it, yet people of another *Figure* muſt have been the firſt *Contrivers* and *Authors* of it. And the handing Mony to *Blacket*, while kept in Cuſtody by *Allen* the Meſſenger; and conniving at his Eſcape from thence, gives us more than a ſuſpicion of it, and little leſs than a Moral certainty. For that Rogue having been the *Tool* employed too, and with *Young* by the Superior Managers, and having threatned to ſqueek in caſe given up and abandoned to a publick Puniſhment; it was ſo ordered, that he might not only be permitted to get away, but be ſhelter'd and maintained in *Ireland*, whether he withdrew. And from whence the Government might have eaſily brought him back, were there not a myſtery in that Affair, which it is not for ſome Peoples Honor to have unravell'd. Nor was the *Meſſenger*, out of whoſe Houſe and Cuſtody he made his Eſcape, ever puniſhed for his careleſneſs and neglect; but after a little menacing and Reprimand, which was meer *Grimace*, he hath been treated all along ſince, with more diſtinguiſhing Favours, than fell to the ſhare of his fellow Officers. Neither durſt ſo mean and creeping Wretches as *Young* and *Blacket*, how impudent and malicious ſoever they are, have attacqu'd Perſons of the *Earl* of *Malborough*, and the *Biſhop* of *Rocheſter*'s Rank and Quality, and who had merited ſo well of the *Government*, and were believed at that time to ſtand in all terms of fairneſs with it; had they not been prompted, guided and encouraged to it, by Perſons of Authority, Grandure, and Eminency. And had Villains acted meerly under their own Conduct, and by the influence of Perſonal Malice and Avarice, they would have ~~ſigned~~ out ſuch to be accuſed, as are held Indiſcreet, Talkative, and **Lash**, and with whom it might have been likely for them to have had ſome converſation; and not Perſons of the greateſt Prudence, Circumſpection, and Reſervedneſs of any in the Kingdom; and into whoſe Society it was morally impoſſible that any ſhould judge them to have been admitted, nor ſo much as into their Preſence, unleſs as Beggars, and indigent Supplicants. So that this Conſpiracy by Suborning two infamous Raſcals, and of obtaining thereby Credit to a *Plot*, upon the Belief of which, ſeveral Noble, Reverend, and Worthy Perſons, were to have been involv'd under guilt of ruine; may ſerve to inſtruct your *Lordſhip* not to be haſty and forward in giving credit to the preſent Importunate and Noiſy Clamours,

Clamours, and to make you extreamly wary, how you proceed to the conviction and condemnation of those that are accused, and threatned to be arraigned. Nor will it be enough either for your Absolution when you appear before the *Tribunal of God*, which you must shortly do; nor for the Vindication of your Justice, and the Support of your Honor before Men while you are here, to leave things to a *Jury*, unless you enquire with the utmost Care and Penetration into the *Credibility* of those that depose and swear, and upon what motives, and by what means, they are prevailed upon, and brought to do it.

Nor can it my Lord, be now any matter of wonder, if after two such repeated experiences as I have ment oned, of some Men's having designed to destroy a quiet, innocent, and peaceable People, upon *invented* and *forged* Conspiracies against the *Government*, supported by the *Oaths* and *Testimonies* of *Mercenary* and *Bribed* Fellows, that the greatest *Zealots* for K. *William* and Q. *Mary*, as well as they who are not intemperately *fond* of their *Sovereignty*, are become hugely Suspicious that the *Allarom* now given to the Nation by the Noise of a fresh *Plot*, hath no other Foundation, than some *sham* contrivance of some *Little Ministers*, who would make themselves valu'd and necessary, and raise Fortunes out of the Ruines of those, with whom upon distinction of Factions, and contrariety of Principles, they are displaced. For it is not enough to involve Men in the Crime, of Designing to destroy the Government; that they cannot obtain Leave of their Consciences vigorously to support it. How many are there, who cannot nicely distinguish themselves from under the obligations that they owe to K. *James*, that are nevertheless willing to remain quiet under the Power that is over them, and to sleep in whole Skins. And I am inclinable to believe, that had not those stiled *Jacobites*, been made all of them uneasy in their Fortunes, and many of them impoverished, by double Taxes, because they cannot renounce all the Religious, as well as Political Principles, with which your *Tillotson's*, *Burnet's*, *Sherlock's*, &c. imbu'd them, but that they would have sit as silent and quiet under this Administration, as any others whatsoever, tho they cannot equally approve and commend it. And were it not for the respect that we are obliged to pay to the Wisdom and Authority of Parliaments, most Persons of Prudence and Temperance of Mind, would acknowledge, this to have been as foolish a Project, as it is peevish and ill-natur'd. Seeing all it amounts unto, is only the revenging themselves on their Neighbours

pon the naked account of Opinion, and muſt have this effect, that hey who are thus diſtinguiſhingly, oppreſſed would be glad of a *Change*, how little ſoever they coe-operate to it. Nor was it ever found a ſucceſsful Method, to render any ſort of people either affectionate to a *State*, or quiet under it, to ſingle them out from the reſt of a *Community*, to be the objects of Severity and Ill-uſage. The moſt that wiſe Governments have uſed to do, hath been only to preclude thoſe from Places of Honor and Profit under them, that have not been zealouſly Affectionate to them. And tho they have ſometimes found *incapaciting* Laws neceſſary; yet they have always held ſuch as are *oppreſſive* to be not only unwiſe, but unrighteous: And as this of ours is a *Preſident* of the firſt *Impreſſion*; ſo it is poſſible, that ſooner or later, it may come to be *Copied*, and imitated upon ſome of them that have ſet the *Pattern*. But to diſmiſs this, I ſhall proceed to tell you, that the *Jacobites* do not only decline *Plotting*, becauſe of the hazzard and danger that attend it, but becauſe they judge it needleſs and unneceſſary. For this *Government* is haſtning to ruine, through the Folly, Laviſhneſs, and Knavery of thoſe that ſerve it; ſo that it were ſuperfluous for any to expoſe their Lifes in attempting to ſubvert it. Through ill Conduct and Miſmanagement, it's come almoſt to an impoſſibility of ſupporting it much longer; and at the ſame time of preſerving the Kingdom. And under that *Dilemma* few will heſitate, which of the *Two* is to be dropt and abandoned; for notwithſtanding all that huffing and ſtrutting of the *Miniſters* about the ſteadineſs, ſtrength, and greatneſs of the Government; it muſt nevertheleſs be owned, that whilſt it remains engaged in the War, it is but in a *Goe-cart*, and walks, and ſtands by the help of *Leading-ſtrings*, and can no longer ſubſiſt, than as it is ſhoared and underpropt, and with the Expence of Suſtaining it grows unſupportable; it ſinks without any Man's running the Hazzard of giving it a Puſh, by the meer withdrawing and with-holding the means by which it was ſuſtained. Which Poverty will ſoon reduce its greateſt *Partizans* to do, notwithſtanding all their *Bigottry* and *Zeal*; for it is now uncontroulably evident, that after the greateſt *Fund* and *Expence* which was ever granted by *Parliament* towards the raiſing and maintaing a more numerous and *brave Land-Army*, than we have at any time, and ſupported. And after all the *United-Strength* of theſe three Kingdoms in conjunction, with all the utmoſt Power which our good *Allies* the *Dutch*, and our other *Confederates* are able to afford and furniſh, that yet all we are in a condition to do in the *Spaniſh Netherlands*, is by

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ſecuring our ſelves in Trenches to mak a defenſive War, and to come home crowned with the honor of doing nothing. And that while we are priding our ſelves upon our infeſting the *French Coaſt*, and the burning a *Fiſher-Town*, at an Expence, Charge, and Loſs vaſtly above the worth of it. We have not only abandoned our *Merchant-Ships* to the mercy of the *Privateers*, but while we thus employ our *Fleet*, have ſuffered the *French* to poſſeſs themſelves of *Jamaica*, which, as it was the moſt profitable of all our *Plantations*; ſo the loſs of it added to the interruption and deſtruction of our *Trade* from all other places, will neceſſitate the whole Kingdom to grow weary of the Government, and to think of ſubverting it, to preſerve the *Little* that remains, rather than to looſe all, by ſtudying longer to ſupport it: And for that Devaſtation we have in the mean time been making on the *French*, it ſeems meerly deſigned to provoke them to revenge; ſeeing that it is certain, that they can make *Repriſals* on any parts of our *Coaſt* when they pleaſe. I confeſs my Lord, that for the *Jacobites* to argue at this rate, doth not ſavour of too much decency; but I am ſure that it is a way of reaſoning, tho poſſibly weak as well as rude is admirably adapted, and extreamly proper, to reſtraign them from *Plotting*, and to keep them quiet. And the folly and unmanrerlineſs of it may be better diſpenſed with, ſeeing it ſpeaketh them upon theſe hopes, and fanciful proſpects wholly alienated, and at a diſtance from promoting Diſturbances. For however *Enthuſiaſtick*, and *Chymerick* this Reaſoning may be in itſelves, as it will not eſcape being accounted ſo by others, yet it has the ſame influence upon them to continue peaceable, as if it were *Apodictical* and *Oracular*. But ſuffer me my Lord, to deſcend to ſome Particulars relative to this *Plot*, which after all the mighty Noiſe concerning it, and the *impriſonment* of ſo *many*, and the *looking* after *more* upon Pretences and Allegations of having been embarqu'd in it, do wholly deſtroy the Credit of it with me, and with I doubt not when repreſented to your *Lordſhip*, will very much enfeeble and detract from the Belief of it with you. And to begin with *Hugh Speak*, and *Henry Baker*, to whom is intruſted the *muſtering* and *levying* of *Witneſſes*, as well as the *conduct*, *inſtruction*, and *management* of them; the *One* is ſuch compound of *Folly* aud *Knavery*, and the *Other* an *abridgement* of *Falſhood*, *Treachery*, and all ſort of *Villany*, that it is impoſſible where they are known, to conciliate Faith either to any thing they ſay, or any Diſcovery they are concerned in. And whoſoever they are of the *Miniſters* that have either advanced unto, or

do give them countenance in this Poſt and Employ, they are more guilty of a *Plot* againſt the Honor of K. *William* and Q. *Mary*, the Reputation of the *Privy-Council*, and the Credit of the *Juſtice* of the *Nation*, than any *Jacobites* whatſoever; yea even Colonel *Parker* himſelf can be in a Conſpiracy againſt the Safety of the *Government*, and the Tranquility of the *Kingdom*. And in truth it is a *Lampoon* upon the *State* to have it reported, that any thing is conveyed by their means, or through their hands, either to the *Secretary*', or to the *Officers* of *Juſtice*. As for Mr. *Speak*, he hath never been otherwiſe look'd upon, by reaſon of his Folly accompanied with Vanity, than as the Sport of *Society*, and the *Buffoon* of the *Town*, having only this to value himſelf upon, that anſwerable to the meaſure which God hath denied him of Underſtanding and good Senſe, he is proportionably furniſhed with Conceit; which doth as well to his ſatisfaction. The *Prank* he play'd upon the *Earl* of *Eſſex*'s having Aſſaſſinated himſelf, and the trouble and diſtreſs which by his Impudence and Folly he was then brought under, doth ſufficiently ſerve both to call him to your remembrance, and to give your *Lordſhip* the Character of the Man. Nor needs there more to expoſe as well as decipher him, than that he who was ready a while ago to have ſworn himſelf off upon the Statute of *Nine pounds* he owed to a poor Woman near *Grays-Inn*, for *Bread*, *Cheeſe*, and *Pots* of *Ale* is of late, ſince he turn'd *Witneſs monger*, not only become *Rival* to the greateſt *Peers* of the Realm in *Grandure* of living; but out-doeth them in *Expence* and *Magnificence*. And if he receives the *Mony* needful to ſupport and defray ſo vaſt a Charge out of the *Treaſury*, as is believed he doth, having been heard, ordering his Servant to go tell *Harry Guy*, that he expected his Mony ſhould be ready for him by four of the Clock ſuch an Afternoon; then either the Treaſure of the Nation is not ſo well diſpoſed and expended as it ſhould, or elſe there muſt be ſome terrible Proſpect and Deſign on foot againſt the *Jacobites*, which they are forced to be at all this Expence to cheriſh. However it is very ſurprizing, and poſſibly will not be very grateful to a *Parliament* when laid before them, that all our *Troops* in *Flanders* ſhould *two poſts* ago, have wanted a *Fortnight* Subſiſtance-Money, ſave what they received out of the private Purſes of their *Officers*, and we in the mean time be ſo prodigiouſly ſquandring and laviſhing it away here upon *Rake-Hells*, who have not Vertue and Fortitude to make capable of deſerving a *Shilling* for a brave and generous Action. But ſome may think that the liberal paying of one Cor-

pany of *Witneſſes* at home, may give us the Credit of a more glorious *Campaign* againſt a few naked and diſarmed *Jacobites* at the *Old-Baily* and *Weſtminſter-Hall*, than all our vaſt and chargeable *Forces* are in a condition of obtaining againſt the *ſtarv'd* and *cowardly French* in *Brabant*. But to wave pleaſantry, the Subject being too tender and grave well to admit it, and which I ſhould not have uſed, but that being obliged to re-encounter *Hugh Speak*, I cannot forbear falling into ſome of that *Jocoſeneſs*, which all Perſons are accuſtomed unto, when is caſt into their Company; for God hath made ſome Creatures to excite and humour our *Riſibility*, as he has made others to gratify, and exerciſe our *Reaſoning* and *Intellectual* faculties. But how contemptible ſoever *Hugh Speak* is in himſelf, and how much he appears ridiculous to all Wiſe men; yet the more dangerous he is, if countenanced and ſupported, and the more hurt he may do, if any be ſo weak and wicked, as to believe either him, or thoſe under his Conduct. And upon the Encouragement, together with the large Sums of Mony, which have been already vouchſafed him; he is ſwelled to that exceſs of Vanity, as not only to equal himſelf to the wiſeſt *Miniſters* about the *Court* in the knowledge of the Art of Government; but to prefer himſelf infinitely before them, calling them in his common Diſcourſe *Punies* in the *Politicks* in compariſon of himſelf. And is alſo arrived to that menacing and dangerous Arrogance, as to declare in open Companies. that he had ſeveral of the *Privy Councellors* at his mercy, and under his power. Which as it overthroweth the Credit of all he either ſayeth himſelf, or inſtructeth and ſuborneth others to ſay; ſo it rendreth it the leſs incongruous for him to boaſt what he can do againſt meaner People, and who are not ſo well Skreen'd from his extravagant mad Rage, as the Noble Perſons may hope to be. Tho in Juſtice he ought to be no more believ'd in reference to the *latter*; than he is to be accounted worthy to be in relation to the *former*. It is not credible how far the *frantick* Man's Ambition ſtretcheth ſince he hath been entertained an *Enroller* and *Trainer* up of *Witneſſes*. For he fixeth no narrower bounds to what he is immediately to grow up unto, than the getting himſelf poſſeſſed of **four** thouſand pounds *per Annum*, beſides ſmall additional of ready Mony about *Forty thouſand pounds*. Now how many *Confiſcations*, *Forfeitures*, *Attainders*, and *Murthers* muſt this Man have projected, and deſigned, in order to compaſs ſo much to himſelf, beſides what the *Crown* is to have, and the ſeveral *Shares* that are to go to *Others*?

ter to have a *Chamber* aſſign'd him in the *Palace* at *Moore-fields* under the same Guidance of thoſe that have the overſight and ruling of the *Lunatick*, than at an exorbitant Expence to be riotouſly maintained by the *Court*, in order to lay *Gins* and *Snares* for the Lifes of innocent Men, by *decoying* and *diſciplining* of Witneſſes. And as for *Harry Baker*, who is not only the other *Conductor*, but the *Suborner* of the *Evidence-Tribe*, and who values himſelf upon their encompaſſing him at his *Levees* and *Couchees* with their Caps in their hands, and in the being attended and guarded by them in his Journeys to *Cheſhire*, *Lancaſhire*, where he lately went veſted with a *Deſpotical* Authority, not only over his Gang of *Bandity* and murdering Slaves, but over the *Meſſengers* of the *Council*, who were ordered to act with an implicite Obedience to his Directions and Commands. This Fellow is too notoriouſly known to your *Lordſhip*, for his *Cheating*, *Defrauding*, *Suborning*, and *Ignominious* courſe of Life about the *Town* for many years, that you ſhould need his infamous Character conveyed unto you by me; and the *Memoirs* of his Life under the Title of the *Engliſh Guſman*, being preparing for the *Preſs*, in order to the Inſtruction as well as diverſion of Mankind; it were but to anticipate what is ſo well and amply ſaid there, to interrupt your *Lordſhip* in your weighty Affairs; by giving you many long detale of his fraudulent, enormous, and infamous Practices. Only let me recommend your *Lordſhip* to the Right Honourable, my Lord *Montague*, who no doubt will vouchſafe to give you, ſuch an account of him in reference to his Carriage towards, and tranſactions in the Affairs of his Lordſhip's Siſter, my Lady *Harvey*, as will not only fill you with aſtoniſhment at his enormous Roguery, but ſufficiently antidote you from being impoſed upon, and miſlead by any Perſons whom he hath the Conduct of, and influenceth, and governs in their Informations. Nor is't improper to lay before you what diſquiet and trouble this brazen-fac'd Fellow gave to moſt of the *Vintners* in and about the *Town*, few years ago, for drawing *Wine* in *Bottles* inſtead of drawing it in *Pots*; and how after he had compaſſed a great deal of Mony to himſelf by ſecret and clandeſtine compoſitions, he **Eluded** the Statute which had been made in that Caſe, defrauded the Government, and became obnoxious to the Penalty and Puniſhment appointed in the *Act*: For it's known to Thouſands in *City* and *Suburbs*, that whoſoever were the little *Scoundrells* that appear'd above board in thoſe Informations and Proſecutions yet that it was he that [illegible] and hounded out the [illegible] five, of whom ſeveral upon

his advice and acceſſion perjur'd themſelves, as well as made themſelves guilty of all ſorts of Sharking, diſhoneſt, and opprobrious Tricks. And whom my Lord, but this *Harry Baker* hath for divers Years been giving vexation to ſeveral *Roman Catholicks* in many parts of the Kingdom, in order to rob, and get them diveſted of very large Parts, Shares, and Proportions of their Eſtates, under pretence of their having been bequeathed unto, and ſetled upon *Papiſh Fraternities*, and *Religious Houſes*; or the being ſome way made over and conveyed to *Superſtitious Uſes*. And this **Barrater** and *Harpie* growing ſenſible, that the infamous *Witneſſes* whom he had levied and ſuborned, to atteſt and ſwear to thoſe Diſpoſals, would by the clear and indiſputable Evidence of Perſons of Rank, Quality, and unſuſpected Credit, be proved guilty of Perjury the next *Term*; he hath thereupon changed the *Scene*, and to prevent that Infamy from falling upon his Witneſſes, he hath directed; ſwayed, and influenced them to ſwear *High Treaſon* againſt the *Gentlemen*. That ſo upon *loſs* of their *Lifes*, their *Eſtates* becoming *forfeited*; he, and his Miſcreants may obtain a *Share* of them that way, after their deſpairing of getting it the other. And it is the proſpect of this, that *Baker* boaſteth upon to his Friends, and feedeth himſelf with the Criminal hopes of commencing ſuddenly a Man of Quality, and of living to the Heighth of his laſcivious and riotous Appetites. But in the *Interim*, until he can attain to thoſe Poſſeſſions, which through ſuborning of Witneſſes he is about purchaſing by Murthers; how diſgracefully doth it reflect upon the Government, and what indelible Reproach doth it faſten upon ſome in the *Miniſtry*, that not only a Perſon of his infamous Chtracter; but againſt whom there are ſo many Actions for Debt, and Executions in the hands of *Atorneys* (it being his Principle, tho never ſo well ſtock'd with Mony to pay no man, if he can avoid it) ſhould be ſo plentifullly furniſhed by thoſe who are truſted with the diſpenſing and iſſuing out of the *Treaſure* of the Nation, as to be able not only to live at the ſplendid and riotous rate he doth, but be in a Condition to feed and ſupply ſo many Notorious *Cormorants*, and *Beaſts of Prey*, as attend him upon the Drudgery of *Haltooing*, and *Forſwearing* Men to Death! But my Lord, it would be to nauſeate and offend you, as well as to ſtain and pollute my ſelf to rake longer in this Sink and Kenel. And I dare refer any for obtaining a farther account of him to moſt of the *Whiggiſh Zealots* for the Government about the *Town*; to all whom he is ſufficiently known for Frauds and Treachery, and to no one for his Truth, Probity

bity and Juſtice. Yea, I can ventnre your *Lordſhip*'s being better inform'd of him to the Teſtimony of Mr. *Aaron Smith*, who, however zealous he be in Proſecutions for *High Treaſon*, and affectionate warm, and ſteady a *Partizan* for thoſe on the *Throne*; yet he hath more regard for his ownCredit, and more concernment for the honour of the Juſtice of the Nation, as well as more compaſſion and tenderneſs for the Lifes of guiltleſs, innocent People, than to repreſent him as a credible Perſon; or not to tell you, if you will do your Self, Mankind, and the Nation that Right, as to require it of him; that *Trick* and *Falſhood* are to be ſuſpected and feared in all that *Harry Baker* does dip or intermeddle with. Nor would I be hopeleſs, but that Mr. *Secretary Trenchard* would concur with the reſt of his old Acquaintance in brandiug *Harry Baker* for a Fellow unworthy of the leaſt Credit in any thing, wherein he expects to find his Advantage and Intereſt. But that Mr. *Secretary* may be apprehenſive, that what upon the *Calculation* of his *Nativity* was told him long ago, may be true; namely, *That his Proſperity and Honour ſhould commence at the time they did; and that after he had been eaſy and flouriſhed* ſix Years, *he ſhould about the Period and expiration of them, fall into Trouble and Diſgrace, if he eſcaped other Diſtreſſes.* And if it be in order to obviate and prevent his threatned *Ill-fortune*, which according to that Prediction muſt be approachtng and near, that he is ſo buſy in finding *Plots* where there are none, and in trading with a Com[illegible] of Villains, whom he encourageth to reveal what he is ſenſible they never knew, nor could; he may by that means both accelerate his *Mortification*, and augment his *Sufferings*. However this I am ſure of, that ſuch a method in the Adminiſtration of his Office will render the worſt that ſhall overtake him the more *Juſt*, and him the leſs *pitied* under It. And were he as much a *Chriſtian*, as he pretends to be a *Stateſman*, he would know that it is Equity and Juſtice which fix the *Nail* in the *Wheel*, to hinder its rolling; and not artifice, trick, and politicks calculated to deſtroy ſuch, whom Laws are enacted to preſerve. And it would not misbecome him to imitate the Pattern of Moderation and good Nature, which the very honourable Perſon in the ſame Poſt with himſelf doth daily ſet and yield unto him, and not to out-run and exceed it with ſo much fiery and undiſcreet heat. For as that truly Great Man contributed more to the *Revolution*, and the Eſtabliſhment of this Government, than he had either Intereſt or Courage to do; ſo that Noble *Peer* wants not Integrity, Zeal, and Fortitude to ſupport it by all honourable, righteous, and proper Means,

Means, tho he cannot meanly and undecently ſtoop to the unrighteous methods of doings (which God will certainly blaſt) that others ſeem ſo fond of, and to practice with ſo much valuation of themſelves upon them.

My Lord, that which remaineth to be laid before your ere I put an end to the trouble that I have aſſumed ~~extreamly~~ to give you, is to afford ſome little account of thoſe Witneſſes whoſe names I have been able to attain after the beſt and moſt diligent enquiry I can make. But this may ſeem altogether ſuperfluous, after the repreſentation given of thoſe that have procured, and continue to manage them. Seeing none but the moſt deſpicable, and moſt infamous of Men, as well as the moſt indigent and neceſſitous, can put themſelves under the power and conduct of the *Blades* I have taken the pains to unmask. Nor indeed is it eaſy to learn, who all the Witneſſes are, there being ſo much art and induſtry uſed to hide and conceal them, which I am ſure caſts no very honourable aſpect upon the Government; tho it looks extream unfavourably upon thoſe that are accuſed: For the making it ſo great a *Secret*, who they are that inform, intimateth that they are ſenſible they are of no good Reputation, and therefore dare not venture the having their *Credibility* ſifted and inquired into. Nor was it ever found, but that labour'd Concealments of this kind, argu'd the weakneſs of *Legal* Proof, but the ſtrength of the ~~Nature~~ of the Government againſt thoſe that were to be proſecuted. Some talk as if many of them were *Scotchmen*, and as if thoſe of that Nation in the *Adminiſtration* of Affairs about this *Court* were deſirous that their Kingdom ſhould have a ſhare in the Glory of yielding a *Pack* of *Standing Evidence* for the *State* as well as *England* and *Ireland* have done. And if the Character of *Cunning*, which is too juſtly as well as commonly given to the *Scotch* holds true in thoſe that are to be hir'd at this time to be Witneſſes for the Government; it looks as if there were a formed Deſign of doing a great deal of miſchief; and that they have choſen their *Tools* accordingly. But then if we add to this the character of *Falſe*, which the *Engliſh* too commonly faſten upon *many* of that Kingdom; there is the leſs danger becauſe it is hoped none will believe them. And therefore as to all the preſent *Evidences* of the *Scotch Nation*, I will leave it upon that iſſue; For not knowing who they are, but upon uncertainty and at random, I will detract from the Honeſty and Faith of none, tho it were eaſy to overthrow the *Credulity* of all that are ſuſpected. But let this or that man's Reputation be never ſo bad, yet I will not ex-

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poſe them unleſs there be a very great neceſſity for it. And then there is, when the leaving them in the poſſeſſion of a Credit, which they have juſtly forfeited, gives them the encouragement, as well as opportunity of murdering innocent People, by coming in falſly as *Evidence* againſt them. But that your *Lordſhip* may have ſome knowledge of the whole Herd of *Bruce*, by giving you a view and ſurvey of ſome that are ſtiled the beſt of them; I ſhall both attempt and ſpeedily diſpatch it, without importuning your patience much longer. And to begin with your *Dandys*, your *Omballs*, and your *Lunts*, &c. which ſwore firſt againſt the *Lancaſhire* Gentlemen to deprive them of their *Eſtates*, and have done the like ſince to deſtroy their *Lives*; it is but your being acquainted with their quality and courſe of living, and you will not only think it a weakneſs, but criminal to believe their Teſtimonies: For *Dandy*, he is *converted Prieſt*, or if you conſider the Motives upon which he abandoned the *Popiſh Religion*, to embrace the *Proteſtant*, which were to have ſcope for his Luſts of all kind, as the whole Series of his Life ever ſince hath abundantly teſtified, you will rather call him an *Apoſtate* one. And it would have been for the *Credit* of your *Church* (for my Lord, I am a *Proteſtant*, and will never ſacrifice my Religion and Country to any Man) if he had never entred into the Communion of it, and more for the *Infamy* of *theirs*, if with allowance he had continued where he was: For ſince he became a *Member* of the *Church of England*, he hath wallowed in all the moſt ſcandalous Immoralities, and to defray the Expence of his Debaucheries, hath Pilfered and Stole where he could, till he fell upon the more ſafe and eaſy, as well as more gainful Trade of *Informing*. And I better compare him to no Man, than to the ancient Evidence *Smith*, alias *Barry*, who having by Perjury *ſtuffed* himſelf upon the *Papiſts*, turned at laſt a perjur'd and falſe Witneſs againſt *Proteſtants*. Which undoubtedly this Fellow will be ready to do (when he finds his Profit and Intereſt in it,) againſt all *Williamites*, *Whigs*, and *Phanaticks*, who now cocker and cheriſh him; as he doth at preſent againſt the *Jacobites* of all Religions, that he is hounded at, and fed with Bread for: as to *Omball*, he is a broken *Carrier*, who by Sloth, Riot, and Neglect, having brought himſelf to Poverty, hath ſet up to repair his Fortune out of Gentlemen's Eſtates, by forged and forſworn Depoſitions againſt them. And as for *Lunt*, he was firſt *Coachman* to my Lord *Carington*, where he either Married or Contracted himſelf, and then becoming a *Trooper* in the Guards, he married another Woman, or kept her

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as his Whore; but afterwards during the life of this *second*, he went and demanded his *first* Wife: And this profligate wretch going afterwards into *Ireland*, while K. *James* was there, he would have imposed upon that *Prince*, that he had been a *Trooper* in the *Guards*; but a Gentleman that knew him, informing the *King* what he had been, he was thereupon refused the being admitted into the *Troop*, which K. *James* was then re-establishing. And most surely he who has the impudence, and dare be so criminal, as to lye to his *Prince*, will never scruple the doing the like to your *Lordship*, and to a *Court of Justice*. At last the *Rakehell* came from *Ireland* into *Lancashire*, where being so necessitous as to be ready to starve, he received Relief from several charitable Families, whom he so ungratefully requiteth, as perjuriously to swear them out of their Lives and Estates. Pray now my Lord, do but vouchsafe to reflect upon the *civil* and *moral* Conditions of these Fellows, and judge whether it be possible, and much less likely, that they should be made acquainted with the disposal, and conveyances of Gentlemen's *Estates*, and least of all, that they should be admitted upon so important and dangerous a Secret, as Men of Quality's Plotting and Conspiring against the Government; which if any Gentlemen should be so weak and foolish as to allow, I will say, that instead of being put into the *Tower*, and *Chester Castle*, *&c.* they should be confined unto, and shut up in *Bethlehem*, and treated as *Madmen*, not as *Traytors*. But the many Persons of Esteem, Vertue, and unsuspected Reputation, who are ready to prove the Wretches Perjur'd in reference to their Depositions about the Gentlemen's Bequeathments of their Estates, will thereby, if they would say no more, meerly through having made them appear forsworn in that Case, over rate their Credit, and tender them infamous in every thing else which they have the impudence to depose. And suffer me upon this occasion to tell you, how barbarous and unpresidented (save during the reign and rapine of Sir *William Waller*) as well as illegal and insolent, the manner of apprehending Gentlemen, and of searching their Houses, has been in *Lancashire*. For not to insist upon the going about and performing it, guarded and assisted with *Dutch* Horse, whom we have no need to keep and maintain in the Kingdom, being furnished with so large an Army of *British* Subjects, and of whom according to the Prince of *Orange*'s Declaration dated at the *Hague* in the Year 88. we should have been rid and delivered long ago. But it is the Policy of this Government to observe and perform no part of that *Declaration*, in order to

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prevent and hinder our believing the *Declaration* of any other *Prince* after it, and thereby make the *Reſtauration* of K. *James* impracticable, there being no other way, at leaſt in their Opinions, to render it feaſible but the recovering and reconciling the Subjects again to their Subjection and Dutys by the Conceſſions and Promiſes which he makes in a *Declaration*. Nor is it improbable, but that our *Miniſters* having read, or at leaſt heard, for all of them are not much converſant with Books, [illegible] of the Monarchs of *France* coming from a *Dukedom* to the *Sovereignty*, ſaid, that being King, he was not to revenge the Injuries he received as *Duke*, they may thereupon imagine, that K. *William* is not obliged to perform the *Prince* of *Orange*'s moſt Solemn Promiſes; But that which I call barbarous as well as illegal, is that in many places whither they went, they plundered and violently took away whatſoever they were able to lay their hands upon. For not being contented to apprehend Perſons, and ſeize Arms of War, they carried away *Walking-Swords*, *Hunting-Saddles*, *Snuffle-Bits*, *Servants Cloaths*, *and Oates out of the Barns and Grenaries*. And which is more prejudicial to the Gentlemen, than all the reſt, under pretence of ſearching for *Papers*, they robbed them of, and carried away with them the *Writings* of their *Eſtates*: which if the Gentlemen do not receive Relief in, and others be covered from the like in time to come, it is eaſy to imagine, that beſides the diſhonour redounding by the Government, it will come to produce worſe effects, and be followed with thoſe fatal conſequences which I need not to foretell. For a rumour diffuſed through the Kingdom, for the entertainment whereof it is pretty well diſpoſed, that the *Dutch* are every where robbing and plundering, may occaſion as general a flying to Arms, and with more miſchief attending it, as the falſe and groundleſs Report did in 88. when it was ſpread through the whole Nation in one Night, how a few broken, ſcatter'd, and diſarmed *Iriſh* were burning Houſes, and cutting Throats in all places! And ſuffer me to tell you, that for the *Miniſters* to pretend to diſallow theſe things, but not to puniſh them, is both to encourage the Souldiers again to do the like, and to tempt others to think that it is very well approved of, tho it be not yet convenient to commend and juſtify it. However it gives occaſion for the old *Tories* to ſay, that all the complaints of the *Whigs* of the rigorous Oppreſſions of the former *Reigns*, was only becauſe they had not the priviledge to practice them; and that it is not the doing ill things diſpleaſeth them, but that they have not the applying the *Royal Authority*, to do all

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the miſchiefs they would. And it gives a very odd *Idea* of a certain Gentleman at *Court*, that when *Hopkins* the Meſſenger was complained of the to'ther day, for having kept Sir *Thomas Stanley*, whom he had in his Cuſtody, *without Meat eight and forty Hours*, all the Puniſhment the murderous and bloody Villain received, was only a gentle *Reprimand*. But as this doth not ſatisfie the Kingdom, much leſs will it give contentment to a *Parliament*, before whom it will be brought in company of many other Oppreſſions and Grievances the next *Seſſions*; when poſſibly our national diſhonours, and loſſes at home and abroad, may diſpoſe them to hearken better than they have done to private and perſonal Complaints. And I may aſſure you, that if either the *Meſſenger* be not turn'd out, or Mr. *Secretary Trenchard* for continuing him in, which in the modeſteſt Language is a conniving at his Crime; all men will believe that whoſoever is taken up and lodged in a *Meſſenger*'s hands, is in a fair way to be *deſtroyed*, without the formality of a *Trial*, or the priviledge of being *judicially convicted* and *condemned*. My Lord, there remains one Witneſs more, whoſe name I have learned, and who is ſaid to be of the beſt Reputation of any they have, and that it is upon his Teſtimony they depend more than upon any other, for the Proof of this horrid *Plot*; and therefore knowing his Character ſo well as I do, I ſhall convey him to you in his natural *Colours*, that by his *Hue*, you may judge of the *Complexion* of all the reſt. The Fellow is one *Kingſton*, that ſtiles himſelf a *Parſon* of the *Church of England*, who being emulous of the Glory of the *Dignified Clergy*, who are labouring to prevent the *Reſtauration* of K. *James*, and to ſupport this Government by all their Wiſdom and Eloquence, and whatſoever other Means they can, ſave the opening their Purſes to the meaſure they have ſtretched thoſe of the *Jacobites*, is deſirous alſo to contribute his utmoſt endeavours towards it, and being uncapable of doing it otherways, offers to *perjure* himſelf in favour of ſo bleſſed Ends. It is ſomewhat ſurprizing, and detracteth very much from the *Character* of the *Eccleſiaſtical Order*, and has leſſened that Eſteem and Veneration, the World uſed to have for them, that there ſcarce can be the diſcovery of a *Plot*, or a Trial for *High Treaſon*, but a *Parſon* muſt be the *Informer*, and put in for a place amongſt the *Witneſſes*; for tho' it may be ſometimes honourable as well as neceſſary to be in a *Plot*, otherwiſe ſo many of our Religious *Clergy* would not have ſo early, and deeply concurr'd unto, and been concerned in the *Deſcent* of the *P.* of *O.* yet it hath been generally accounted diſreputable to be a

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Diſcoverer, and to aſſume the Title of an *Evidence*. And it is not only ſo, but likewiſe infamous, when all that is pretended to be *diſcovered* is *forged*; and whatſoever is *depoſed* is *perjurious falſhood*, as it is in the Caſe of this Scandalous Fellow's *Information*; who having begun with *forging his own Prieſtly Order*, conceiveth he may as well forge *Treaſon* againſt harmleſs and peaceable Men. And as the doing the former, renders him juſtly ſuſpected of doing the latter; ſo it makes him *infamous* to all intents and purpoſes, and precludes him from obtaining belief in any *Judicial Court*, how much ſoever it be prepoſſeſſed in prejudice of thoſe he has the Impudence to accuſe. And that this celebrated *Witneſs* did ſo, your *Lordſhip* will not only receive full Proof of it, both by an Authentick Copy of his *Conviction*, duly atteſted out of the *Epiſcopal Regiſter* of *Briſtol*, where he was convicted of the Crime of doing it; but by the *Depoſition* of the preſent *Biſhop* of *Briſtol* to be given Judicially before you. That Right Reverend *Prelate*, having been *Dioceſſan* of *Briſtol*, when it was done. So that having repreſented this unto you, it were to weary your Patience, and not to inform your Judgment, to give your *Lordſhip* an account of his *Poligamy*, as well as of his other moſt prodigious and criminal Offences, where you will have a large account both from *Citizens* and *Countreymen*, whenſoever they whoſe Office it is to proſecute Tranſgreſſors, ſhall have the confidence and indiſcretion to bring him before you as a Witneſs. Only let me recommend your *Lordſhip* to Sir *Samuel Aſtery* for further Information concerning him, who has reaſon to know him through having been defrauded by him of ſeveral hundred Pounds. So that I hope by this time the groundleſs and empty Noiſe about a *Plot*, is made ſufficiently appear; and that it is not for the honour of the Government to continue making ſo great a buzzle about it, or to perſevere in the apprehending ſo many Perſons upon that account. Nor can my *Lord Keeper*, who hath hitherto enjoyed among all men ſo fair an Eſteem, expect long to perſevere it, if he go on to give that countenance, which he is ſaid to do to ſuch infamous Wretches, as come before him to make Diſcovery. Neither will he be thought fit to keep the *King's Conſcience*, who is not more tender of his *own* than to believe them. Nor doth it very well become his Place and Character, to have dipt and entangled himſelf ſo much in this Buſineſs, as ſome repreſent him to have done. For were there ſome irregularity, or undecent exceſs in the conduct of here and there a *Jacobite*. Yet it is not for him who by his *Office* is to *moderate* the *Rigour* of *Law*,

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to have the principal Hand in *ſtiling little Faults Treaſonable Crimes*. And inſtead of that *Equity* which ſhould only flow from him, to put on (upon the meer ſtore of Faction and Party) an immoderate and unrelenting Severity. And all Mankind would believe, that he ſhould reckon the *Province* belonging to his *Title*, large enough, without launching into that of the *Secretary*'s, and *Atorney General*, but I hope all that is ſaid of him is not truth; and that his *Palace* where he ſhould decide *Chancery Cauſes* is not dwindled into an *Office of Intelligence*. And that being ſatisfied with his own Place, he will not break in upon Mr. *Aaron Smith* alſo. My Lord, I have been too tedious and prolix to leave room for a Complement at laſt, and therefore I will conclude without one, and only tell you that by inclination and choice, as upon the motive of your own Merit, I am

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's

Moſt humble and obedient Servant.

Aug. 22. 1694.

T. N.